

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

ON THE IDENTITY OF *HALICTUS CUBENSIS* SPINOLA,
1851 (HYMENOPTERA: HALICTIDAE)¹Michael S. Engel²

Some time ago Dr. Julio A. Genaro inquired if I might be able to determine the proper identity of the species known as *Halictus cubensis* Spinola, 1851 which was described from a male and female from Havana, Cuba. Unfortunately, Spinola (1851, p. 203) only mentioned the species in passing, proposing it rather cavalierly as a note under his treatment of *H. chloris* Spinola, 1851 (today *Corynura chloris*) and principally referring to the position of particular wing veins. Thus, although the name was made available, the real identity of the species has remained undetermined for over 150 years. Indeed, in the catalog of Western Hemisphere halictids, Moure and Hurd (1987, p. 206) rightly left *H. cubensis* as *Halictini incertae sedis*.

Through the kindness of Dr. Guido Pagliano I have recently had the opportunity to examine the male and female upon which Spinola based his brief description of *H. cubensis*. I have found that the female is a specimen of *Augochlora regina* Smith, 1853 (Augochlorini: Augochlorina), while the male is *Agaposmon viridulus* (Fabricius, 1793) (Caenohalictini: Agapostemonina). Both species are already relatively well characterized and I therefore do not believe it necessary to provide lengthy redescriptions of them herein. However, for the purpose of nomenclatorial stability I have provided the necessary taxonomic summaries for both species, designated a lectotype for *H. cubensis*, and indicated the necessary new synonymy that the lectotype designation precipitates (*infra*). Both of Spinola's specimens are now labeled with their appropriate identities and the male with a lectotype label as indicated.

SYSTEMATIC ENTOMOLOGY

Tribe Augochlorini Beebe

Genus *Augochlora* Smith*Augochlora (Augochlora) regina* Smith*Augochlora regina* Smith, 1853: 77.

Material. Female: [Havana, Cuba; coll. Poey] // [*Halictus cubensis* Spinola] // *Augochlora regina* Smith, det. M. S. Engel, 2004. Specimen conserved in the Spinola Collection of the Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali, Turin.

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² Division of Entomology, Natural History Museum, and Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, 1460 Jayhawk Boulevard, Snow Hall, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66045-7523 U.S.A. E-mail: msengel@ku.edu.

Tribe Caenohalictini Michener
Genus *Agapostemon* Guérin-Ménéville
***Agapostemon (Agapostemon) viridulus* (Fabricius)**

Apis viridula Fabricius, 1793: 342.

Andrena (Agapostemon) femoralis Guérin-Ménéville, 1844: 447.

Halictus cubensis Spinola, 1851: 203. **new synonym**

Agapostemon semiviridis Cresson, 1865: 172.

Lectotype (here designated). Male; [Havana, Cuba; coll. Poey] // [*Halictus cubensis* Spinola] // Lectotype, *Halictus cubensis* Spinola, 1851, desig. M. S. Engel [red label] // *Agapostemon viridulus* (Fabricius), det. M. S. Engel, 2004. Specimen conserved in the Spinola Collection of the Museo Regionale di Scienze Naturali, Turin. The lectotype is here designated for the express purpose of stabilizing the application of the epithet *cubensis* as proposed by Spinola (op. cit.). The specimen is in excellent condition.

Comments. Although I could have selected Spinola's female as the lectotype, *A. regina* has been more widely used in the literature, albeit still rather uncommonly, than *A. viridulus*. Furthermore, of these two names in current usage only *A. viridulus* is older than *H. cubensis*. Selection of the male as the name-bearing type for the latter renders the epithet a junior synonym of the former, preserving current usage and eliminating the long unused name. Since Spinola's description applies equally to his male and female specimens and he refers to both, either is eligible to serve as the name-bearing type of *H. cubensis*. I believe my selection does the most to promote nomenclatorial stability.

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